

Title:	City of Beaverton & City of Gotemba Exchange Program
Date/Time:	Thursday, July 26 @ 3:40 p.m.
Location:	City of Gotemba
Details:	15 minutes

Good afternoon.

Thank you for inviting us to your beautiful city! Gotemba was Beaverton's first sister city and today we're here to celebrate a historic milestone—our 25 year anniversary!

Before I begin, I want to acknowledge some very important people. First, my wife Ann. From our Advisory Board, Mr. Ted Chung and Sue; a task force member, Mrs. Stephanie Somanchi and her husband SubbaRao; vice president of government affairs, Mr. Sanford Inouye and his wife Ann; our Artistic Director Mr. Stephen Galván and his wife Rebecca; and Registered Nurse Mrs. Pat Porter and her husband Bob.

Thank you all. I am grateful to serve with you.

Beaverton and Gotemba have many similarities: our size, our active culture, and let's not forget—the horseradish.

Our Sister Cities program opens so many doors, while enriching our cultures, supporting economic opportunities and encouraging collaboration.

And most importantly, the Sister Cities Program fosters lasting friendship.

PAUSE

Beaverton has made great strides since we last spoke.

These past two years, we had three overarching priorities:

Our FIRST PRIORITY was to showcase Beaverton as an Open Community: Open for Business; Open for Families; and Open for everyone.

We are becoming known as one of the most welcoming communities in the Northwest. And we embrace our status as one of the most diverse cities in Oregon.

Of course, we will continue to be Open for Business and with a program to bring more employees to the city, while emphasizing growing the businesses that are already in Beaverton.

Our SECOND PRIORITY was to continue to build on our Safe City reputation.

We have an excellent community policing program and we will continue to build upon that solid foundation and do everything we can do to support it.

Our THIRD PRIORITY was to remain steadfast in our commitment to outstanding Sustainable City Services. We are making this part of our city government culture.

PAUSE

We've enjoyed many successes...

- Because of our excellent Beaverton Police Department, we were again recognized as the safest city in Oregon, for cities with populations over 75,000.
- We expanded our workforce business assistance program.
- We increased our “local investment program” to a total of \$11.4 million dollars in local banks and credit unions. This helps them lend to the companies in Beaverton.
- We continued our efforts to become more sustainable.
- And, we focused our attention on our diverse communities to be more inclusive.

PAUSE

I am VERY passionate about being inclusive and honoring our diversity.

I believe our diversity is one of our greatest strengths—it’s what makes Beaverton vibrant, and what makes our country great.

I have made it a city-wide priority to reach out and welcome our growing diverse populations. 1 out of 4 people living in our city was not born in the U.S.!

We recently created a new position, a cultural outreach and inclusion coordinator to make it easier for our diverse populations to work with the city.

Beaverton has opened the door, but we must continue to strive to find ways to encourage and welcome our diverse citizenry to

share their thoughts and their voices, and become involved in many areas of our community and government.

PAUSE

We continue to go green in our operations and are encouraging our residents and businesses to become more sustainable at home and at work!

We have accomplished so much! Examples of our successes include:

- **We facilitated weatherization loans for our local residents;**
- **We led the way for the installation of solar panels on an additional 258 homes;**
- **We installed electric vehicle charging stations at City Hall, in central Beaverton and at our world-class Beaverton City Library;**
- **We converted 333 street lights to energy-efficient LEDs and are working to add 422 more;**
- **We completed the city's first greenhouse gas inventories;**

PAUSE

Another priority for our city is that we demonstrate sound fiscal responsibility.

Being fiscally responsible is one of our core values and we continue to receive accolades for our strong financial standing.

According to Moody's Investors Services our bond ratings are excellent.

Since I took office in January 2009, nearly 100 acres of land have been voluntarily annexed into Beaverton. This has raised Beaverton's assessed valuation by \$35 million dollars.

Another success was last summer's International Sustainability Conference. All of our sister cities attended. I was especially interested in Deputy Mayor Fukutaro Katsumata's talk about Gotemba's green and sustainable practices. He was a great representation for your city, as was the rest of your delegation.

PAUSE

More good news arrived last year when our regional government, Metro, approved adding 535 acres of the South Cooper Mountain area into the Beaverton Urban Growth Boundary.

This land will provide Beaverton with room to grow. It will also support a new high school.

A new high school has been a priority for our school district for a long time.

The additional land will also support up to 3,500 housing units—all of which will have the added benefit of supplying new construction and permanent jobs for Beaverton.

Another significant milestone came when our citizens voted to support our \$150 million dollar Urban Renewal Plan.

Urban renewal will help Beaverton:

- **Create an active downtown;**
- **Address traffic congestion;**
- **Support infrastructure projects such as road, water and sewer improvements;**
- **Support public safety by addressing police, fire and medical response times;**
- **Make downtown more accessible for bicyclists and pedestrians;**
- **Provide incentives for business investment and help create jobs.**

PAUSE

In 2012, I moved our nationally recognized and award-winning Community Vision program into the Mayor's office. I'm still amazed that we reached out and spoke with 5,000 people in the city, and received 6,500 ideas from them on ways to improve our city.

A group of dedicated citizens took those ideas and distilled them down to 118 positive, thoughtful recommendations.

Our citizens spoke and we listened.

PAUSE

We've also begun to implement our Beaverton Civic Plan.

Our Civic Plan will lead us through land use, transportation, economic development, public services, and governance policy decisions.

It will guide our growth for the next 20 years.

All of this good work is not going unnoticed.

We have received three national awards for leadership in sustainability; with the most recent recognition coming from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The award we received was the prestigious 2012 Mayors' Climate Protection Award. More than 100 cities from many states competed for this award.

And we're getting the work done to improve our city.

- **We've begun the Public Outreach for infrastructure improvements for a festival street concept in our downtown.**
- **The festival streetscape improvements include: improved bike and pedestrian paths, plazas, street furniture, gateways, and enhanced lighting and signage.**
- **We are finalizing the redesign of Canyon Road—one of our busiest streets in Beaverton—with the help of our state and local partners.**
- **We are completing the Concept Plan for the entire South Cooper Mountain area with an ultimate goal of creating**

a complete community—with walkable neighborhoods and a new high school.

This spring the city purchased a Class A office building in central Beaverton—a building that was in foreclosure.

By purchasing the building we ended an expensive lease agreement for the city's state-of-the-art Central Heating and Cooling Plant, which is located in the building.

The purchase saved the city more than \$4.5 million dollars over the cost of purchasing the building versus the remaining lease obligation.

PAUSE

We have enjoyed other successes.

We received a \$1 million dollar HUD (Housing and Urban Development) grant to restore creeks and enhance the area's livability.

This grant will let us plan how to integrate affordable housing with efficient transportation, green infrastructure and public amenities.

Our community has said that they expect us to create a clearly-defined downtown—a downtown that serves as the economic, social and cultural heart of Beaverton.

We're making great strides to fulfill that bold vision.

PAUSE

With all the good that's happening in our city—we also face challenges.

We are working together to better

- **Support our seniors**
- **To feed the hungry**
- **To find shelter for our homeless...**

We must show compassion for our most vulnerable citizens.

PAUSE

There is hope.

Recently, our region's jobless rate fell to 6.9 percent.

Nearly all recent job growth can be credited to the private sector. Employment is up 1.4 percent from the year before.

Still... we face other challenges.

Our police and court facilities are woefully inadequate for a community of our size.

Our police department has grown 178 percent (from 63 to 175 employees) since 1986. Our City Hall was never intended to meet the current demands for services.

This past year, our citizen-led groups have evaluated Beaverton's needs for the police, the court, as well as for community and civic spaces.

We will build upon that good work! Fostering a safe city is the foundation for our future.

PAUSE

In closing, Beaverton has much to be thankful for.

- **Voters supported our \$150 million urban renewal plan**
- **Our Beaverton City Library became the single busiest library in the entire state of Oregon, with a circulation of 2,779,600 books.**
- **Our citizens have embraced the arts by attending more than 40 city-led events**

And... we continue to be recognized on the "BEST OF" lists because:

- **We have a safe city**
- **We have a livable city**
- **We have a bike-friendly city, and**
- **We have walkable neighborhoods.**
- **We are a great place to raise a family**

- We are a great place to retire
- And we are a very sustainable community

PAUSE

Today, I've shared with you what a city can do when it has a strong sense of community.

We've enjoyed significant successes over the past two years.

In May, voters overwhelmingly re-elected me as their mayor for another four-year term. I look forward to serving the citizens of Beaverton and continuing our friendship with Gotemba.

Thank you, Gotemba, for inviting me here; you have a beautiful city.

I'm proud of the longstanding partnership that we've shared over the past 25 years.

Beaverton is committed to our friendship and—I strongly believe the next 25 years will bring even more success to our two cities.

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